



**University of Washington Botanic Gardens  
Washington Park Arboretum  
Pacific Connections Gardens  
Design Development Phase**

**Public Open House  
Graham Visitor Center  
6-7:30pm, May 3, 2006**

**Pro Parks Levy Development Manager** Michael Shiosaki gave an introduction to the participants in the design process and the history of the project to the current date. Dr. David Mabberley of **University of Washington Botanic Gardens** spoke about the University of Washington's satisfaction with the development of the project.

The Portico Group posted several plans of the proposed Pacific Connections Gardens including the: Existing Conditions Plan, Layout & Grading Plan, Planting Plan, and Illustrated Site Plan. Dennis Meyer, a principal at the Portico Group, explained each of the plans to meeting attendees.

While discussing the Existing Conditions Plan, Dennis showed which symbols represented native evergreen trees that will remain on the site as the gardens develop. He also explained the symbols showing existing collections shrubs and trees that will remain and be interwoven into the new gardens.

While discussing the Grading Plan, Dennis explained how the site's steep topography created a need for pathways following the existing contours and the necessity of retaining walls shown with eight-foot wide pathways.

While referring to the Planting Plan and Illustrated Site Plan, Dennis discussed the arrangement of the Pacific Connections Gardens into five different areas representing Cascadia, Chile, China, New Zealand, and East Australia. The gardens, arranged around a circular meadow, will recreate forest types in these regions. The canopy layer is currently shown in the plans, but there is a shrub and groundcover layer of plants below. The gardens of Cascadia, Chile, China, and New Zealand are accessed by a path from the interpretive meadow. Each path goes through two countries. A visitor could begin in Cascadia and end in Chile, or they could begin in China and end in East Asia. To ease way finding, all paths begin and end at the Interpretive Meadow, excepting East Australia, which is accessed via a path across Arboretum Drive.



Milenko Matanovic of Pomegranate presented revisions to the previous interpretive shelter design including screens with reduced height and fewer pillars.

Allison Craig Sundine of The Portico Group presented graphic representations of way finding and interpretive elements including the WPA Boundary Marker, Garden ID, Garden Path Border Marker, Pedestrian Orientation Panel, Arboretum Identification at Madison, Boulevard Garden ID, and Street ID, & Feature Directional. She explained that these interpretive and way finding elements would be constructed of materials already used in the Washington Park Arboretum such as basalt, or of materials compatible with existing structures such as stone and terrazzo.

There were few questions of concern from attendees. Most of the feedback was very positive with people enjoying the presentations and there was a general feeling of anticipation about the new gardens planned for the Washington Park Arboretum.

Questions and responses:

Q: How many plants/trees will be saved?

A: Hundreds of trees will be retained; thousands of new trees/plants to be added as part of the new plant collections.

Q: Arboretum Drive will it be relocated?

A: The drive will stay in the same location except it will be relocated near the Graham Visitor Center only. The new section of Arboretum Drive will be located to the east of the visitors center.

Q: is the site near the property line with Broadmoor a wetland?

A: yes, and Wetland plants to be located in th wetland areas. All wetlandswill be retained

Q: Explain the proposed pathways.

A:The paths are designed in a series of loops originating from the meadow area. The path are at ADA accessible grades.

Q: Will there be a bike path along Lake Washington Boulevard?

A: A multi-use (bicycles and pedestrians) path will be added as a separate master plan project in the future. The path will be accommodated in the design for the Pacific Connections projects for future development.

Q: Can the interpretive sign panels be changed/updated over time?

A: Yes, the sign panels can be changed over time.



Q: What is the survival rate of the plants?

A: The rate is difficult to specify. Some less hardy plants will be tested for hardiness in the Arboretum, so survival rates for some plants will be lower, while others will be very high. The plantings are intended to show a succession of an ecosystem over time, so some of the initial plant species will ultimately be succeeded by the climax plant species.

Q: Is there any coverage or shelter from the rain:

A: The 300 square ft. interpretive shelter will provide protection from the rain.

Q: How much grading will there be?

A. We anticipate a minimal amount of grading – mainly for creation of the pathway system. Lower retaining walls will be constructed in some areas to create flat areas for the paths. Stone walls or poured in place concrete walls with a veneer of stone are proposed.